

JOHN R. HALL.

JANUARY 19, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PUGH, from the Committee on War Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 1814.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1814) entitled "A bill for the relief of Doctor John R. Hall, of Louisville, Kentucky," beg leave to submit the following report, and recommend that said bill do pass:

This is a claim for medical services rendered United States troops stationed at Georgetown, Ky., during the year 1864. Claim stated at \$80.

The proof shows that at the time claimant rendered said services the officer in command at Georgetown gave him the proper vouchers and certificates, showing that said services had been rendered; that claimant sent said vouchers to the War Department for settlement and the same were returned to him by said Department with directions and instructions that the same be sent to the medical director at Memphis, Tenn., for his indorsement and approval; that in obedience to said instructions from the War Department, the claimant mailed at Georgetown, Ky., said vouchers, together with the letter and instructions received from said Department, and directed to the medical director at Memphis, Tenn. No reply was received nor were said vouchers ever returned to him.

Claimant filed his claim in the Surgeon-General's Office. The Surgeon-General referred the case to the Second Auditor of the Treasury Department with the following indorsement:

Respectfully forwarded to the Second Auditor for the action of the accounting officers of the Treasury, with the information that a careful search of the records fails to furnish any information in this case except that inquiry was made in May, 1869, and no record was then found. The vouchers which the claimant alleges were furnished to him by the officers in command of the troops to whom the services were rendered, were never received at this office. One of the witnesses, S. F. Gano, M. D., was surgeon of the board of enrollment, seventh district of Kentucky, from May 8, 1863, to June 15, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. His signatures are undoubtedly genuine, and his testimony is entitled to full credence. It is believed that the claimant rendered service for which he should have been paid, but the evidence is not regarded as sufficiently definite as to the extent of the services rendered and the troops attended to warrant a recommendation for the allowance of a fixed amount. Approval is therefore withheld; if, however, the evidence adduced by the claimant and obtained from official sources shall be regarded by the accounting officers as sufficient to warrant payment of the claim, no objection is made by this office, and such amount as may be found due would, it is presumed, be properly chargeable to the appropriation "medical and hospital, 1883 and prior years."

By order of the Surgeon-General.

J. H. BAXTER,

Chief Medical Purveyor, United States Army.

The claim was disallowed by the accounting officers after admitting that the services were rendered.

Your committee hold that the claimant should be paid, that the original vouchers were lost or mislaid through no fault of Dr. Hall, and report the bill back and recommend its passage.